

## THE ARGUS.

Published daily at 1524 Second Avenue, Rock Island, Ill. Entered at the post office as second-class matter.

Rock Island Member of the Associated Press.

BY THE J. W. POTTER CO.

TERMS—Ten cents per week, by mail, \$1 per year for itself or advance.

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Telephones in all departments. Central Office, Rock Island 245, 246 and 247.



Thursday, March 18, 1915.

Chicago is going to have a new jail costing \$2,000,000. It is not yet decided, however, whether it is to be erected on the court house square.

Inauguration of the New York Giants with typhoid serum difficulties will be booked upon by the Federalists as another outrage on the part of organized baseball.

With Prasenji on the verge of failing and Italy hanging on the brink of war for so many weeks the suspense in Europe is getting almost as dreadful as the things that are actually happening.

If efforts now being made to enhance charge of collecting draft from the underworld with the head of the Bronx City police department succeed it will be time for draft rings in other cities of the land to move back to the next line of trenches.

Millionaires who are forced to go to China and other remote lands to find subjects for their benefactions might find in the statement of a New York minister that the poor cannot afford divorce a guidepost to a new field of philanthropy.

There is some satisfaction in being able, for the time being, at least, to claim to the most powerful battlefield about, even though some other nation may have gone a step further in assessing naval armament by the time the Pennsylvania is ready to place in commission.

Chicago has a pleasant way of convincing itself that it ought to establish plenty of hospitals to care for drug fiends. Every murder a drug fiend commits, it figures, costs \$10,000 for extra police activity. Hence it is cheaper to provide hospitals.

It is hoped before the present municipal commission goes out of power it will require the contractors to bring the Second avenue asphalt pavement up to the terms of the contract. There are a number of holes and depressions that should be filled, and the spring is a good time to do it.

Most anyone, for half the price, would be willing to give the south the advice which the federal industrial relations commission must surely offer after it has completed its investigation of the condition of the southern farmer. It needs no expert diagnosis to point to more diversified agriculture, instead of cotton and then more cotton, as the first step toward permanent prosperity.

## AFRAID.

The republican township convention in Rock Island last night, called for the purpose of nominating men for members of the county board, sidestepped the jail location issue, or at any rate did not see fit to endorse the movement for removal of the building from the court house square.

Rock Island has no right to expect much, in the event of their election, from candidates who are nominated under such circumstances.

## PRAISE FOR TAVENNER.

The Quincy Journal is among the papers printing the expose of the world-wide war trust by Congressman Clyde H. Tavenner, which is now appearing in The Argus. Referring to Mr. Tavenner and his work the Journal, under the heading "A Faithful Public Servant," says editorially:

We are printing a series of articles written by Congressman Clyde H. Tavenner that ought to be read by every adult in the United States. In these articles Representative Tavenner is dealing with the army and navy trust, and his exposé has attracted wide attention in government circles in the city of Washington and elsewhere. It has also attracted the most earnest attention, as well as the most active opposition, of the army and the navy ring.

Nobody except Mr. Tavenner himself will ever know what a vast amount of work the preparation these articles has called for. Mr. Tavenner has worked for weeks and months on this subject.

Along the fore part of February Mr. Tavenner printed a speech on this subject that took up 25 pages in the Congressional Record, and to say that the speech produced a sensation in Washington is putting it more than strongly. That speech gave Mr. Tavenner a new rating in congress and in Washington city. The amount of work

done in the preparation of that speech and the tremendous amount of authoritative information that it contains are a wonder. There is probably not another member of congress, in either house that has the ability and the industry to dig up and compile so many authoritative facts on that subject. No one can think of denying the evidence produced, for Mr. Tavenner gives the time and place where all of his incriminating testimony can be found. He quotes verbatim from many authoritative sources.

We know of no other congressman in either house, at the present time, that has done the people of the United States as great a service as Mr. Tavenner has done in his great exposé of the army and navy ring. Nor is there the slightest doubt of partnership in this work of Mr. Tavenner. Graft knows no party. It is of course in all parties. Mr. Tavenner has always been doing a patriotic service for the people of the United States.

Mr. Dugout, the multi-millionaire head of the powder trust, a representative in congress from New Jersey, if our memory is not at fault, paid Mr. Tavenner the compliment of pretending to get out of the powder trust, a few days after Mr. Tavenner's speech appeared in the Congressional Record. He got out by transferring all his stock to his son—and a great extent in it. The army and navy contractors will move heaven and earth to beat Mr. Tavenner the next time he runs for congress, and if money will beat him, he will be beaten. The people of the Fourteenth district and the people of the United States ought to see to it that Clyde H. Tavenner is kept in congress, for no man has rendered, or will render, the people of the United States a more valued service than Mr. Tavenner has.

When we get a good man in congress we ought to keep him there.

We are extremely proud of this young man, Tavenner. He is a newspaper man—that's the way we first got acquainted with him. We began printing his Washington letters, and it was then that we discovered the worth of the young man. We plainly saw from his letters that he was industrious, painstaking, conscientious. And we did what we could to get him to run for congress and after he was nominated we did everything we could to get him elected.

Over and over again we said that he would make a valuable member of the house, and he certainly has. In the house he has been honest, industrious, patriotic. He has more than fulfilled every favorable prediction that we made for him. We are surely proud of Clyde H. Tavenner.

We sincerely hope that every adult reader of The Journal will read Mr. Tavenner's articles on the army and navy trust. Our people owe it to themselves to do this. They owe it to most citizens. No reader of these articles will find a word of partisanship in them. They are far away from partisanship. They are patriotic to the core. The people of the Fourteenth district, without the slightest regard to party, should continue to keep Mr. Tavenner in congress. He is certainly a faithful, patriotic public servant. The people ought to stand by the public man who stands by them.

REGULATING THE JITTERY BUS.

The jitney has regulations proposed by the Tri-City Federation of Labor and to be presented to the municipal lawmaking bodies of this locality for enactment into law deserve the consideration of the public in whose interest they are drafted. The object is not to eliminate the jitney automatically but to regulate and control it and to place responsibility in those who operate it. In a word, the purpose is to bring it under the same requirements that apply to any common carrier. The street car company is responsible under the corporation laws of the state and it is possessed of tangible assets in great plenty from which to recover damages in any amount that may be justified. The proposed regulations framed by the Labor Federation are not too drastic. One thing more should be added it is provision for conductors. Numerous incidents have been called to the attention of The Argus of drivers operating their cars with one hand in crowded thoroughfares or on the bridges while they turn half about in their seats to collect fares from their passengers. If the field is an inviting one and lucrative as to bring in so many conveyances and such violent competition the proceeds ought to be sufficient to warrant two men to a car.

With the regulations suggested by the Labor Federation should go to the municipal bodies of Rock Island and Davenport at least, the resolutions adopted by the same labor body demanding better street car service on the Bridge line and more desirable accommodations for the island workmen. The street car service on the Bridge line has been inadequate for some time, especially at night. The cars have been packed into the cars like cattle and made to suffer inconvenience. This should be remedied by adding more cars between 3 in the afternoon and midnight. The price of the island men is also just. That any man who has worked all day in a shop should be obliged to stand in a crowded car is an outrage that should not be longer tolerated.

Bring the jitney buses under the law in the interest of public safety and require the street car company to provide sufficient service on the Bridge line and for the island shop men and everybody will be happy.

## The World Wide War Trust

XXVIII.  
BY CONGRESSMAN CLYDE H. TAVENNER.

(Special Correspondence of The Argus.)

Washington, March 16.—(Continued from page 1117 of the same hearings.)

General Crozier stated as follows:

"At the Springfield armory the principal manufacturer is small arms rifles.

"We make a few other things, but the manufacture is almost entirely of the small arms rifle.

"We manufacture that rifle for about \$15, and in doing

so I take into account what I think

should properly be taken into account

in the cost; but the Springfield armory, like the other arsenals, is main-

tained as an arsenal of storage and issue, as well as a manufacturing place, and therefore, in computing

these costs, I have subtracted

from the total expense of the Springfield armory those portions which I con-

sider result from its character as an

arsenal of issue and storage. Unless

somebody goes into the details quite

as to whether I subtract quite as much as

I ought to.

"Therefore, I, last year, for the pur-

pose of satisfying some persons who

might have some doubt, made up what

I might call an exaggerated cost of

the rifles at the Springfield armory

and charged it to the rifle. Whether

it was for the payment of the clerks

that were used in the issue of stores,

the payment of the storehouse force,

whether it was for the payment of the

watchmen—they are the guards and

custodians of the valuable property

we have up there—I charged all the

pay of officers and all the pay of ev-

erybody concerned to the rifle, and

by that means I arrived at a cost of

the rifle of \$17.64 instead of \$15—that

is, I found I had to add to the cost as

I had reported it about 17 per cent.

Now, that then became a statement of

an exaggerated cost which, whatever

the rifle might cost properly, it could

not possibly reach. It must have been

below \$17.65, and if it were possible to

obtain the opinion of an expert, I

would be glad to ask him if he thought

the Springfield rifle could be produced

by anybody else anywhere and pur-

chased for \$25. My opinion is that

you could not get it as low as \$25 from

any manufacturer."

Rifles are also made at the Rock Is-

land arsenal at the same or a lower

figure.

in the manufacture, for \$1,744.16,

which is 54.6 per cent greater than

our own price."

On page 1117 of the same hearings

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